

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

### METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ASSIGNING ROLES TO DEVICES USING PHYSICAL TOKENS

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A physical token is provided that is used to assign an activity or role to a specific device by virtue of a physical relationship with the device. By associating the token with a device, through electrical connection or by mere proximity relative to the device, an administrator informs the device of the intended role for the device in an enterprise. In  
10 conjunction with some bootstrapping or other appropriate software on the computing device, the act of placing the token in the proper physical relationship with the device is all that is necessary to configure and deploy the device in a data center. A device may be assigned roles from a plurality of tokens. Computing devices may also be assigned roles based upon their proximity to other devices. Roles may also include a concept of  
15 seniority, wherein one device may be assigned a more senior role to another device.